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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/867,626	05/31/2001	Keiichi Maeda	SON-1539/CON	7772

7590

09/11/2003

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Washington, DC 20036

EXAMINER

MAYEKAR, KISHOR

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1753

DATE MAILED: 09/11/2003

10

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/867,626

Applicant(s)

MAEDA, KEIICHI

Examiner

Kishor Mayekar

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 4, 8 and 11-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 4, 8 and 11-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 2, the claim is indefinite for reciting a plating bath as part of the structure of the claimed device.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Claim are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over STOGER et al. (4,176,034), a reference cited in the last Office action. STOGER's invention is directed to an apparatus for the electrodeposition of aluminum. STOGER discloses

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in Fig. 1 that the apparatus comprises a plating chamber containing a substrate holder **14** and adapted to contain a plating bath **15**, a pre-treatment chamber **304**, a transportation chamber **305** connected to the pre-treatment chamber **304** by a door **303** and connected to the plating chamber by an inner lock opening **9**, wherein the pre-treatment chamber **304**, the transportation chamber **305**, and the plating chamber are combined to be maintained together in a non-oxidative atmosphere. The differences between STOGER and the above claims are whether STOGER's door **303** and inner lock opening **9** are equivalent to the recited gate valve, and the intended use of the apparatus.

As to the first subject matter, since STOGER's door **303** which can be closed gastight (col. 5, line 63) and inner lock opening **9** are elements regulating the transfer of the substrate holder into and out to the chambers or the loading and unloading of the substrate, they are inherently gate valves in the meaning of the context of the specification. And, if they are not, the selection of any equivalent transferring and/or loading/unloading valve would be within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

As to the second subject matter to the substrate used in a large scale integration process, the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious to one

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having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the reference's teachings because it has been held on the intended use of a device that "apparatus claims cover what a device is, not what a device does", *Hewlett-Packard Co. v. Bausch & Lomb Inc.*, 15 USPQ 2d 1525.

As to the subject matter of claim 8, STOGER discloses a gas supply port **18** and a gas evacuation port **322**.

As to the subject matter of claim 14, STOGER discloses it in Fig. 2.

Response to Arguments

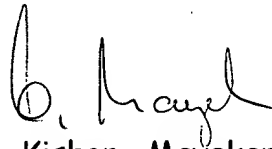
4. Applicant's arguments filed July 22, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive because of the new ground of rejection as set forth in the paragraph above.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kishor Mayekar whose telephone number is (703) 308-0477. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam Nguyen can be reached on (703) 308-3322. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Mayekar', is positioned above the printed name.

Kishor Mayekar
Primary Examiner
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KM